Economics Content Connectors



Standard 1: Scarcity and Economic Reasoning

Students understand that productive resources are limited; therefore, people, institutions, and governments cannot have all the goods and services they want. As a result, people, institutions, and governments must choose some things and give up others.

| IAS | Content Connector |
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| E.1.2: Explain that entrepreneurs combine productive resources | E.1.2.a.1: Explain that entrepreneurs combine productive |
| to produce goods and services with the goal of making a profit. | resources to produce goods and services with the goal of |
| | making a profit. |
| E.1.3: Identify incentives and explain how they influence | E.1.3.a.1: Identify incentives and explain how they influence |
| decisions. | decisions. |
| E.1.4: Explain that voluntary exchange occurs when | E.1.4.a.1: Explain that voluntary exchange occurs when |
| households, businesses, and governments expect to gain. | households, businesses, and governments expect to gain. |
| E.1.5: Define scarcity and explain how choices incur | E.1.5a.1: Define scarcity and explain how choices incur |
| opportunity costs and tradeoffs. | opportunity costs and tradeoffs. |
| E.1.6: Use a production possibilities curve to explain the | |
| concepts of choice, scarcity, opportunity cost, tradeoffs, | |
| unemployment, productivity, and growth. | |
| E.1.7: Describe and compare the various economic systems | |
| (traditional, market, command, mixed); explain their strengths | |
| and weaknesses. | |
| E.1.8: Describe how clearly defined and enforced property | |
| rights are essential to a market economy. | |
| E.1.9: Diagram and explain the circular flow model of a market | E.1.9.a.1: Diagram and explain the circular flow model of a |
| economy. | market economy. |

Standard 2: Supply and Demand

Students understand the role that supply and demand, prices, and profits play in determining production and distribution in a market economy.

| IAS | Content Connector |
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| E.2.1: Define supply and demand and explain the causes of the | E.2.1.a. 1: Define supply and demand and explain the causes of |
| Law of Supply and the Law of Demand. | the Law of Supply and the Law of Demand. |
| E.2.2: Recognize that consumers ultimately determine what is | E.2.2.a.1: Recognize that consumers ultimately determine what |
| produced in a market economy. | is produced in a market economy. |
| E.2.3: Illustrate how supply and demand determine equilibrium | E.2.3.a.1: Illustrate how supply and demand determine |
| price and quantity. | equilibrium price and quantity. |
| E.2.4: Identify factors that cause changes in market supply and | E.2.4.a.1: Identify factors that cause changes in market supply |
| demand and how these changes affect price and quantity in a | and demand and how these changes affect price and quantity in |
| competitive market. | a competitive market. |
| E.2.5: Describe how elasticity (price) sends signals to buyers | E.2.5.a.1: Describe how elasticity (price) sends signals to buyers |
| and sellers. | and sellers. |



| E.2.6: Demonstrate how government wage and price controls, | E.2.6.a.1: Demonstrate how government wage and price |
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| such as rent controls and minimum wage laws, create shortages | controls, such as rent controls and minimum wage laws, create |
| and surpluses. | shortages and surpluses. |
| E.2.7: Describe how the earnings of workers are determined by | E.2.7.a.1: Describe how the earnings of workers are |
| the market value of the product produced and workers' | determined by the market value of the product produced and |
| productivity, as well as other factors. | workers' productivity, as well as other factors. |
| IAS | Content Connector |
| E.2.8: Illustrate how physical and human capital investment | E.2.8.a.1: Illustrate how physical and human capital investment |
| raise productivity and future standards of living. | raise productivity and future standards of living. |
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Standard 3: Market Structures

Students understand the role of business firms and analyze the various types of market structures in the United States economy.

| IAS | Content Connector |
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| E.3.1: Identify the ways that firms raise financial capital and explain the advantages and disadvantages of each. | |
| E.3.2: Demonstrate how firms determine optimum levels of output by comparing marginal cost and marginal revenue. | |
| E.3.3: Compare and contrast the basic characteristics of the four market structures: monopoly, oligopoly, monopolistic competition, and pure competition; explain how various amounts of competition affect price and quantity. | |
| E.3.4: Recognize the benefits of natural monopolies (economies of scale) and explain the purposes of government regulation of these monopolies. | |

Standard 4: The Role of Government

Students understand that typical microeconomic roles of government in a market or mixed economy are the provision of public goods and services, redistribution of income, protection of property rights, and resolution of market failures.

| IAS | Content Connector |
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| E.4.1: Explain the roles of government in a market economy. | E.4.1.a.1: Define Market Economy |
| E.4.2 Explain how markets underproduce public goods and | E.4.2.a.1: Explain how markets underproduce public goods |
| explain why the government has an interest in producing these | and explain why the government has an interest in producing |
| public goods. | these public goods. |
| E.4.3: Describe how the government taxes negative | |
| externalities (spillovers) and subsidizes positive externalities | |
| (spillovers) to resolve the inefficiencies they cause. | |
| E.4.4: Describe major revenue and expenditure categories and | |
| their respective proportions of state and federal budgets. | |
| E.4.5: Define progressive, proportional, and regressive | |
| taxation and determine whether different types of taxes | |
| (including income, sales, and Social Security) are progressive, | |
| proportional, or regressive. | |
| E.4.6: Explain how costs of government policies may exceed | |
| benefits because social or political goals (rather than economic | |
| efficiency) are being pursued. | |
| E.4.7: Define the national debt, explain the effects of the debt | E.4.7.a.1: Define types of taxes (including income, sales, and |
| on the economy, and explain how to achieve a balanced | Social Security) |
| budget. | |



Standard 5: National Economic Performance

Students understand the means by which economic performance is measured and the causes and effects of business cycles in a market economy.

| IAS | Content Connector |
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| E.5.1: Explain measures of a country's economic performance | |
| such as gross domestic product (GDP), unemployment, and | |
| inflation. | |
| E.5.2: Recognize that a country's overall level of income, | |
| employment, and prices is determined by rational spending and | |
| production decisions of households, firms, and government. | |
| E.5.3: Explain the limitations of using GDP to measure | |
| economic welfare. | |
| E.5.4: Identify the different causes of inflation (including | |
| costpush and demand-pull) and explain the impact of inflation | |
| on economic decisions. | |
| E.5.5: Explain and illustrate the impact of changes in aggregate | |
| supply and aggregate demand. | |
| E.5.6: Explain the causes and effects of business cycles in a | |
| market economy. | |
| E.5.7: Explain the different types of unemployment. | E.5.7.a.1: Explain the different types of unemployment. |
| | |
| E.5.8: Describe the impact of unemployment and unexpected | E.5.8.a.1: Describe the impact of unemployment and |
| inflation on an economy and how individuals and organizations | unexpected inflation on an economy and how individuals and |
| try to protect themselves. | organizations try to protect themselves. |

Standard 6: Money and the Role of Financial Institutions

Students understand the role of money and financial institutions in a market economy.

| IAS | Content Connector |
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| E.6.1: Explain the basic functions of money. | E.6.1.a.1: Explain the basic functions of money. |
| E.6.2: Identify the composition of the money supply of the | E.6.2.a.1: Identify the composition of the money supply of the |
| United States. | United States. |
| E.6.3: Explain the roles of financial institutions. | E.6.3.a.1: Explain the roles of financial institutions. |
| E.6.4: Demonstrate how banks create money through the | E.6.4.a.1: Demonstrate how banks create money through the |
| principle of fractional reserve banking. | principle of fractional reserve banking. |
| E.6.5: Describe the structure and functions of the Federal | E.6.5.a.1: Describe the structure and functions of the Federal |
| Reserve System. | Reserve System. |
| E.6.6: Explain how interest rates act as an incentive for savers | E.6.6.a.1: Explain how interest rates act as an incentive for |
| and borrowers. | savers and borrowers. |
| E.6.7: Compare and contrast different types of financial | E.6.7.a.1: Compare and contrast different types of financial |
| investments. | investments. |



| E.6.8: Demonstrate how supply and demand determine | E.6.8.a.1: Demonstrate how supply and demand determine |
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| equilibrium price and quantity in the financial markets. | equilibrium price and quantity in the financial markets. |

Standard 7: Economic Stabilization

Students understand the macroeconomic role of the government in developing and implementing economic stabilization policies and how these policies impact the macroeconomy.

| IAS | Content Connector |
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| E.7.1: Define and explain fiscal and monetary policy. | |
| E.7.2: Explain the tools of fiscal and monetary policy. | |
| E.7.3: Analyze how the government uses fiscal policy to | |
| promote price stability, full employment, and economic growth. | |
| E.7.4: Explain how the use of fiscal policy affects budget | |
| deficits or surpluses and the national debt. | |
| E.7.5: Analyze how the Federal Reserve uses monetary policy | |
| to promote price stability, full employment, and economic | |
| growth. | |
| E.7.6: Compare and contrast the major macroeconomic | |
| theories. | |

Standard 8: Trade

Students understand why households, businesses, and governments trade goods and services and how trade affects the economies of the world.

| IAS | Content Connector |
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| E.8.1: Explain that most trade occurs because producers have a | E.8.1.a.1: Explain that most trade occurs because producers |
| comparative advantage (rather than an absolute advantage) in | have a comparative advantage (rather than an absolute |
| the production of a good or service. | advantage) in the production of a good or service. |
| E.8.2: Explain the benefits of trade among households and | E.8.2.a.1: Explain the benefits of trade among households and |
| countries. | countries. |
| E.8.3: Explain the difference between balance of trade and | E.8.3.a.1: Explain the difference between balance of trade and |
| balance of payments. | balance of payments. |
| E.8.4: Define and explain the impact of trade barriers, such as | |
| quotas and tariffs, and analyze why countries erect them. | |
| E.8.5: Evaluate the arguments for and against free trade. | E.8.5.a.1: Define free trade. |
| | E.8.5.a.2: Tell arguments for and against free trade. |
| E.8.6: Explain how changes in exchange rates affects the value | E.8.6.a.1: Define import, export |
| of imports and exports. | |
| | E.8.6.a.2: Tell how import and export exchange rate |
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